

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A hydrophobic fumed silica treated with a cyclic dimethylsiloxane, the hydrophobic fumed silica having an M-value representing an oleophilic degree in a range of 48 to 65, a tapping bulk density of larger than 80 g/L but not larger than 130 g/L, and an n-value representing the dispersion of 3.0 to 3.5 as measured in toluene; and wherein a content of aggregated particles of not smaller than 45  $\mu$ m is not larger than 200 ppm in weight ratio.

2. (Original) A hydrophobic fumed silica according to claim 1, wherein a nitrogen content is not larger than 15 ppm, and a total amount of metals and metal oxide impurities is not larger than 10 ppm calculated as metals.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a hydrophobic fumed silica by compacting a fumed silica to increase its bulk density, and by bringing the fumed silica into contact with a gaseous cyclic dimethylsiloxane.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a hydrophobic fumed silica according to claim 4, wherein the compacting treatment is so conducted that the tapping bulk density of the fumed silica becomes 70 to 120 g/L;

6. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a hydrophobic fumed silica according to claim 4, wherein the compacting treatment is conducted by using a vacuum compressor.

7. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a hydrophobic fumed silica according to claim 4, wherein the cyclic dimethylsiloxane that is used has a boiling point of not higher than 300°C.